

Public Hangman's Job Now Sinicure In Britain

By WALTER DAVIS
LONDON (Reuters)—The job of public hangman in Britain has become almost a sinecure now that the death sentence has been abolished for all but a few categories of murder.

A government spokesman has estimated that the hangman will in future be called upon only about three or four times a year. From the end of the war until February, 1956, when the House of Commons passed a motion urging the government to abolish the death penalty, the annual average of hangings was 15.

No criminal has been hanged since the House of Commons vote. The executioner today has an easy time compared with his predecessors of long ago. In the reign of King Henry VIII (1509-1549), for example, about 2,000 persons were executed every year for theft

and robbery alone.

During that reign and in the next 200 years, executions were regarded as much a public entertainment as a soccer game is today. Large crowds gathered around the gallows and prices were charged for front seats.

In the early 19th century, 220 offences were still punishable by death. People were executed for such trivial crimes as cutting down a tree. The judge, passing sentence on a man found guilty of this crime at Chelmsford, Essex, in 1814, commented that a man who would cut down a tree would kill a man.

In 1811, a London judge objected to the abolition of the death penalty for picking pockets, though offenders could still be hanged for setting fire to a haystack, or stealing more than one shilling.

Gradually, as a result of increasing pressure for reform, the death penalty was abolished for cattle, horse and sheep stealing in 1832, for house-breaking in 1833, for larceny by post office employees in 1836, and for burglary in 1837.

PIRACY
In 1861, it was abolished for all offences except treason, murder, piracy with violence and setting fire to dockyards and arsenals. These last two are actually still capital offences today, though no one has been hanged for them for many years.

Executions in public were stopped in 1866.

Between 1922 and 1932, Parliament abolished capital punishment for all persons under the age of 18.

The five types of murder for which hanging is still the penalty include the slaying of police or prison guards and murder by shooting or use of explosives.

SMALL COIN
Nickel is commonly used for small coins because it does not easily tarnish.

WELLINGTON

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Arsenault and family were recent visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Archie Arsenault.

Mr. Clayton Barlow has returned to his job after being confined at home by illness.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Carr and family, Mr. and Mrs. Maynard Thompson and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Barlow and family were visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Barlow on Mother's Day.

Mr. and Mrs. Billy McLure and family were visitors at the home of Mrs. Samuel Barlow on Sunday.

Mrs. Ray Howatt spent the weekend with her mother, Mrs. Garfield Day, and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Edmund C. Arsenault recently received word from their son Tilman of Newport, Rhode Island, U. S. A. conveying the sad news of the death of their only grand-child, little Evva, at the age of 1 year, the only child of Mr. and Mrs. Tilman Arsenault, who spent several

weeks on the Island last summer. Friends of Mr. Jack Barlow, and Mr. Eldon Barlow are pleased to see them home after being patients in the P. E. Island Hospital and P. C. Hospital respectively.

Mr. and Mrs. Edmund C. Arsenault have been spending 3 weeks visiting friends and relatives in United States.

Rev. W. B. McPhail, pastor of United Church recently returned home after attending conference in Montreal.

Congratulations are extended to Miss Dianna Reid on winning semi-finalist in Music Festival held in Summerside.

Mrs. Napoleon Arsenault recently visited at the home of her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Louise Arsenault and family.

Friends of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Campbell are pleased to learn they are better after their recent illness at their home.

Sympathy is extended to Mr. Matt C. Gallant on the death of his sister, the late Mary Anne Gallant at the age of 80 years in Charlottetown.

Mr. and Mrs. Walton and daughter Shirley of Dartmouth, N. S. recently visited Mr. and Mrs. Roy McAusland and family. Mr. Walton returned to his duties with R. C. N. and Mrs. Walton remained with her parents, Mrs. Walton is the former Una McAusland.

Mrs. Wilfred Thompson and children Dianne and Wayne have returned to Dartmouth, N. S. after visiting relatives in Union Corner, Charlottetown and Belmont. She was accompanied back by her mother, Mrs. Herman Ferguson.

Miss Freda Perry of Antigonish, N. S. was called home on account of the illness of her father, Mr. Paul Perry.

Misses Eunice and Aline Gallant of Moncton, were recent visitors of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bev. Gallant.

Mrs. Frank Arsenault of Summerside, was a recent guest of Mrs. Ernest Gallant.

Miss Roma Gallant who has been employed in Summerside, for past several years is spending some time with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Gallant, before leaving for Centralia, Ontario, in the near future, where she will be married to Mr. William Leach, a member of the R. C. A. P.

Visitors for Easter weekend at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Faustine Richard were: Cecile accompanied by Misses Michelle Gautier, Charlotte DesRoisiers all of Charlottetown.

Mrs. J. Wilfred Arsenault recently visited relatives and friends in Charlottetown.

Florin Arsenault and Mr. Jones students of St. Joseph's College, N. B. spent the weekend at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edmund F. Arsenault.

Mrs. Austin LeBlanc has returned to her home after visiting in Moncton, N. B.

Mrs. Anthony Maddix, recently visited for a few days at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edmund C. Gallant.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred McKinnon are being warmly welcomed home to Southwest Lot 16, after spending the winter in Summerside.

Mr. Ivan Cameron was the victim of a regrettable accident recently when he had the misfortune of badly cutting his foot with an ax while working in the woods. He was taken at once to a Doctor, where he received medical attention. His many friends are pleased to see him about again.

Elmer Cameron and Russell Ramsay were recent visitors to Moncton, N. B.

Freeman and Arthur Campbell who have been employed in N. S. for some time have returned home in Southwest.

Mr. Claude Baglole South West, has returned home after being employed in St. John, N. B. during the winter.

Mr. John C. Baglole who spent a few days with his wife and family has returned to Moncton where he is employed.

Congratulations are extended to Mr. and Mrs. Edga Dymont, on their recent marriage. Mrs. Dymont is the former Daisy McKinnon of Southwest.

Little Yvon, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Gallant, is convalescing after 3 weeks stay in Hospital, following an injury to his arm in March.

Mr. Joseph Caisle, Maxville, where he recently underwent a Major operation.

Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Arsenault of Howlan, were visitors in Abram's Village recently.

Mr. Raney Arsenault returned home after spending some time with his daughter, Mrs. Alcide Mallet and family, St. Louis, de Kent, N. B.

Mrs. Edmond DesRoches, Leoville, recently visited her mother, Mrs. John P. Arsenault of St. Chrysostom.

CAIRO (Reuters) — United States warships Wednesday will resume transit through the Suez Canal for the first time since the Anglo-French intervention in Egypt last November. Four ships — two destroyers and two transports — will pass through the canal southbound from Port Said to the Red Sea.



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